

## NORTHERN HIGHLAND-AMERICAN LEGION STATE FOREST

### DRAFT MASTER PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

#### Governor

Jim Doyle

#### Natural Resource Board

Gerald M. O'Brien, *Chair*

Howard D. Poulson, *Vice-Chair*

Jonathan P. Ela, *Secretary*

Herbert F. Behnke

Christine L. Thomas

John W. Welter

Stephen D. Willet

#### Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Scott Hassett, *Secretary*

Paul DeLong, *Division Administrator, Forestry*

Equal Opportunity Employer The Wisconsin DNR provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington D.C. 20240. This publication can be made available in alternative formats (large print, Braille, audio-tape, etc.) upon request. Please contact the Wisconsin DNR, Division of Forestry, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707. Phone: (608) 267-7494

#### Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry

101 South Webster Street

PO Box 7921

Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921

For your convenience this document  
is available on the Internet at:  
[www.dnr.state.wi.us/master\\_planning/](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/master_planning/)

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This plan has been developed through a team effort by many individuals from the Department of Natural Resources. Through their hard work and expertise, these people have developed a plan that will guide the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest into the future.

#### Core Planning Team

Bob Dall, Angela Jacobs, Dennis Leith, Melissa Lake, Teague Prichard, James Warren, Tom Watkins, Linda Winn.

**Past Members:** Dave Daniels, Lorelee Bernsteen, Jill Mrotek, Arlyn Loomans, Connie Antonuk, Mary Hamel, Andena Rissman, Kent VanHorn

#### Guidance Team

Tim Mulhern, Robert Mather, Kate Fitzgerald, Michael Staggs

**Past members:** Gene Franciso, Bob Roden, Dale Urso, Bruce Moss, Paul DeLong, Al Shea

#### Expanded Team

Ron Eckstein, Steve Gilbert, Laura Herman, Randy Hoffman, Sonja Margitan, Colleen Matula, Patricia Matula, Jeff Olsen, Mike Vogelsang, Bob Schepper, Cal Doering, Mike Beaufaux, Rebecca Schroeder, Harland Carlson

#### Other Resources Specialists

Paul Schultz, Heide Conde, Dan Jacoby, Anthony Martinez, Mark Brandt, Dean Farr, Lyle Hannahs, Bill Eldred, Ken Markart, Sherry Klosiewski, Sherri Buller, Jim Bishop, Dave Kunelius, Dave Daniels, Dan Schuller, Jimmy Christianson, Eric Ebersberger



# NORTHERN HIGHLAND-AMERICAN LEGION STATE FOREST: Environmental Impact Statement, Analysis of Management Alternatives, and Public Involvement

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b> .....	<b>page</b>	<b>a</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1. Analysis of Impacts of the Proposed Plan</b> .....	<b>page</b>	<b>1</b>
Impacts to Physical And Biological Resources .....	page	2
Impacts to Recreational Resources .....	page	6
Impacts to Scenic Resources .....	page	8
Impacts to Wild Resource Recreation .....	page	9
Impacts to Cultural Resources .....	page	13
Impacts to Resources of Tribal Interest .....	page	13
Socio-Economic Impacts .....	page	14
Boundary Expansion Impacts .....	page	17
Cumulative Effects, Risk, and Precedent .....	page	18
Significance of Cumulative Effects .....	page	18
Energy Consumption Impacts .....	page	18
Significance of Risk .....	page	18
Significance of Precedent .....	page	18
<b>CHAPTER 2.</b> .....	<b>page</b>	<b>21</b>
Analysis of Management Alternatives and Their Impacts		
<b>CHAPTER 3.</b> .....	<b>page</b>	<b>45</b>
Summary of Public Involvement		
<b>APPENDIX</b> .....	<b>page</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Appendix A:</b> Glossary of Terms .....	page	56
<b>Appendix B:</b> References .....	page	58
<b>Appendix C:</b> Comparison of the general ecological attributes provided under each Land Management Classification .....	page	59
<b>Appendix D:</b> Special of Special Concern, Wisconsin State Threatened and Wisconsin State Endangered Species within the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest .....	page	60
<b>Appendix E:</b> Designation Process of State Natural Areas and NH-AL Master plan development .....	page	62
<b>Appendix F:</b> Natural Resources Used by Local Native American Tribes .....	page	69



## **LIST OF FIGURES**

---

### **CHAPTER 1**

None

### **CHAPTER 2**

Figure 2.1 – Potential Revenue for Different Recreational Alternatives

### **CHAPTER 3**

None



## LIST OF TABLES

### CHAPTER 1

Table 1.1	Projected changes in Upland Cover Type Over the Next 50 Years
Table 1.2	Native Community or Scarce Ecological Resources and Impacts to the Plan
Table 1.3	Changes in Camping and Day Use Opportunities
Table 1.4	Changes in Designated Trail Opportunities
Table 1.5	Lakes with Proposed Changes in Motorized Watercraft Access
Table 1.6	Comparison of Changes in Wild Resources Area Opportunities Between the 1982 Plan to the Draft Master Plan
Table 1.7	Summary of Proposed Special Lake Use Designations
Table 1.8	Wild and Wilderness Lake Changes—A Comparison of Proposed and Current Designations
Table 1.9	Projected Impacts on Specific Resources of Special Tribal Interest

### CHAPTER 2

Table 2.1	Community Restoration and Old Growth Assessment (CROG) and Biotic Inventory sites
Table 2.2	Future Percent of Aspen in Each Alternative, 50 to 100 Years.
Table 2.3	Upland Forest Managed for Old Growth Characteristics by Alternative
Table 2.4	Camping and Day Use Alternatives
Table 2.5	Comparison of the Education and Interpretation Alternatives and Benefits
Table 2.6	Trail Alternatives Evaluated for the NH-AL
Table 2.7	Compatibility of the Wild Resource Area Alternatives and the Recreation Alternatives for the NH-AL.

### CHAPTER 3

Table 3.1	Chronological Summary of Public and Tribal Involvement Activities for the NH-AL
-----------	---

## LIST OF MAPS

None







---

# INTRODUCTION

---

This document provides an analysis of the probable impacts of the proposed Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest Master Plan, October 2005. As required under section NR 150.22(2), Wis. Adm. Code, this analysis also includes an examination of the management alternatives considered and the public review process used during the development of the plan. Refer to the proposed Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest Master Plan, October 2005 for a description of the proposed action and of the affected environment.